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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1167  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4028  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1845  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1712  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2281  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2692

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000897

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN  
W/AID FOR EE/EA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [TX](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: USAID IMPLEMENTER'S VISA EXTENSION  
DENIED

Classified By: CHARGE SYLVIA REED CURRAN FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) On July 15, Charge met with DFM Wepa Hajiyevev to discuss the denial of a visa extension to the Chief of Party for the Aglinks project administered by Winrock International in Turkmenistan. Hajiyevev said Turkmenistan is pleased with its cooperation with USAID and wants to provide the best conditions for the work of USAID implementers and their projects. Nevertheless, despite the generally positive work of Winrock, a specific problem had arisen that necessitated denying the visa extension. Hajiyevev explained that the implementer had met with a successful dairy farmer named Saidov and tried to convince him to allow Winrock to work with him in order to increase his productivity. Saidov, who has his own business plan and funding sources, declined the offer. Hajiyevev claimed that the implementer, unwilling to take no for an answer, continued to push. Allegedly, the implementer threatened to work with the farmer's competitors and drive him out of business if he did not sign up with Winrock.

¶2. (C) Charge raised the humanitarian aspect of the case, since the implementer is married to a Turkmen citizen. The couple have one child and will soon have a second one. Denying the visa would necessitate splitting a family. She said Embassy officials would talk to the implementer and could ensure that a misunderstanding as occurred with the dairy farmer would never happen again. She suggested that the visa committee review the case after several weeks. (The family will be outside of Turkmenistan for the next weeks for the birth of the baby.) Hajiyevev said humanitarian factors should be taken into consideration, and it would be possible to review the case, following some time, on humanitarian grounds.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: We do not know exactly what happened between the implementer and Saidov. Emboffs who know the implementer doubt he was as pushy as Hajiyevev described. In any case, something upset Saidov, who then turned to friends in high places. It is clear that emphasizing the humanitarian issue as well as the one time nature of whatever occurred is the best way to lobby to overturn the decision and allow the implementer to continue work which both sides consider

valuable. END COMMENT.  
CURRAN